

	Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center Policy Manual		Policy Number	1508
			Original Date	12/23/1996
	Department: Exposure Control Plan		Revised Date	03/01/2016
	Infectious/Bio-hazardous Waste			

POLICY:

All Infectious/Bio-hazardous waste are to be discarded into a color-coded container before being secured and transported.

PROCEDURE:

1. Infectious Waste and Bio-hazardous bags will be closed and stored only in designated collection areas.
2. Employees will not transfer into another container, sort through the contents of infectious/bio-hazardous waste bags, or sort among closed bags.
3. Gloves will be worn at all times when gathering or transporting waste which has any chance of having been exposed to blood, other human fluids or tissues, or during the cleaning and decontamination procedures.
4. Empty Sharps containers when $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
5. All containers will be tightly closed or sealed prior to being taken from the area in which the waste was created. Closed containers shall not be left in the area in which they were filled, but shall be moved promptly to a designated storage area to await timely transportation to an approved destruction facility.
6. If the outside of any bag which may contain Bio-hazardous waste is observed to be punctured or damp from internal leakage, that container shall be placed into another qualified container by a gloved and gowned employee before it is moved or otherwise handled.

Infectious/Bio-hazard Waste

7. After placing contaminated Bio-hazardous Waste in a red Bio-hazardous Bag:
 - a. Securely close the bag.
 - b. Carry it to the nearest Bio-hazardous Waste container (located in the Soiled Utility Room on each wing).
 - c. Place it in the red bag-lined Bio-hazardous Waste Container.
 - d. Remove gloves, hand hygiene.

DEFINITIONS:**Infectious Waste**

Infectious waste includes any materials which pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise mismanaged.

Bio-hazardous Waste

Bio-hazardous waste consists of blood, excretions, exudates, secretions, suctioning, and disposable medical supplies which have come in contact with these substances:

The Bloodborne Pathogens standard uses the term, “regulated waste”, to refer to the following categories of waste which require special handling: (1) liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infected material; (2) items contaminated with blood or other potentially infected material and which would release these substances in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; (3) items that are caked with dried blood or other potentially infected material and are capable of releasing these materials during handling; (4) contaminated sharps; and (5) pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infected material.